

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00975 061102Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AID-01 SS-07 AF-04 NSC-06 ISO-00 SSO-00

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O 061040Z NOV 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5734

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0975

CODEL DIGGS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, BY, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN DIGGS TO BURUNDI

REF: STATE 273482

1. HAVING HEARD ON RADIO THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND FOR CONSULTATION, I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION ON REFTEL IN GENEVA WITH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS, OR WHETHER SUCH APPROACH IS YET TO COME. HOWEVER, I ASSUME THAT BUJUMBURA 0974 WILL CAST SOMEWHAT MODIFIED PERSPECTIVE ON THE HUTU-TUTSI ASPECTS OF THE NEW REGIME'S TAKOVER.

2. BECAUSE OF THIS, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD NOT GET CONGRESSMAN DIGGS TOO CHARGED UP ON ETHNIC PROBLEMS. THEY ARE A MOST DELICATE SUBJECT FOR ANY BURUNDI LEADER, AND A FULL "CARDS ON THE TABLE" APPROACH WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NEW REGIME HAS DONE NOTHING SO FAR TO JUSTIFY ANY SUDDEN APPREHENSION OF ETHNIC ISSUES. OF COURSE, NAUNCED HINTS DURING THE CONGRESSMAN'S TALKS HERE ABOUT BURUNDI'S NATIONAL UNITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL CITIZENS, HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC, ALL DRAWING ON OUR OWN SOUL-SEARCHING ON RACIAL PROBLEMS IN THE U.S., WOULD BE QUITE NATURAL, BUT THESE ARE LINES THAT WE CAN DISCUSS ONCE HE IS IN BUJUMBURA.

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PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00975 061102Z

3. THE FOREGOING IS OF COURSE NOT MEANT TO DISCOURAGE THE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR ANYONE ELSE FROM SPEAKING TO CONGRESSMAN
DIGGS ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF HIS VISITING HERE. WE HAVE BEEN
TOLD THAT AMBASSADORS WILL BE SEEING COLONEL BAGAZA INDIVIDUALLY
FOR 15 MINUTES EACH IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AND I WOULD MENTION
TO HIM THE POSSIBILITY OF CODEL DIGGS, AND THEIR DESIRE FOR
HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS IN BURUNDI IF THE TRIP GOES THROUGH.
MARK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CODELS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUJUMB00975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760414-0818
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761174/aaaaclo.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 273482
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN DIGGS TO BURUNDI
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, BY, US, (DIGGS, CHARLES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006